

in this respect for Kerala postal Circle. There is, however, no proposal to open telegraph offices in Alleppey and Pathanamthitta districts during 1991-92.

### **Biogas Plants in Maharashtra**

1602. SHRI B. DEVARAJAN: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of biogas plants installed in operation in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether any major improvements in design and technology have been effected during the last three years;

(c) the quantum of fuelwood saved annually due to these biogas plant; and

(d) the action the Government propose to take to increase the number of biogas plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALPA NATH RAI): (a) State-wise information of the number of family type biogas

plants installed during the period 1981-82 to 1990-91 under the Central Sector Scheme 'National Project for Biogas Development' is given in the attached Statement. The operation of biogas plants is the responsibility of individual owners and depends upon a number of factors, such as availability of cattle dung and water, climate.

(b) Yes, Sir. Two new designs of biogas plants, one for processing of vegetable waste and green biomass and another for use of enriched digested slurry for coating of seeds for increasing production, have been developed during the last three years.

(c) It is estimated that biogas plants installed so far in the country are producing fuel-gas, equivalent of about 50 lakh tonnes of firewood annually.

(d) Government has already taken action to increase the number of biogas plants in the country. The National Project for Biogas Development envisage a target of setting up of 1.47 lakh biogas plants during 1991-92 and provides for a number of financial and other incentives including Central subsidies, turn-key job fee, repair and maintenance charges, technical and training support, and publicity and extension.

### **STATEMENT**

*State-Wise total number of family size Biogas Plants set up during 1981-82 to 1990-91 under National Project on Biogas Development*

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>State/Union Territories</i>	<i>Total No. of Plants set up.</i>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	97905
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	52
3.	Assam	9748
4.	Bihar	62866

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<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>State/Union Territories</i>	<i>Total No. of Plants set up .</i>
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6.	Gujarat	119445
7.	Haryana	20077
8.	Himachal Pradesh	24490
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	893
10.	Karnataka	72554
11.	Kerala	27171
12.	Madhya Pradesh	40969
13.	Maharashtra	421046
14.	Manipur	416
15.	Meghalaya	219
16.	Mizoram	711
17.	Nagaland	124
18.	Orissa	61429
19.	Punjab	17195
20.	Rajasthan	38382
21.	Sikkim	539
22.	Tamil Nadu	137079
23.	Tripura	164
24.	Uttar Pradesh	197869
25.	West Bengal	49176
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	98
27.	Chandigarh	78

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>State/Union Territories</i>	<i>Total No. of Plants set up .</i>
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	143
29.	Delhi	600
30.	Pondicherry	472
Grand Total		14,03,574

#### **High Power Transmitters in Various Districts in Orissa**

1603. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts have been made by the the government to upgrade the TV transmitters at Sambalpur and Rourkela and set up more Low Power Transmitters in Gunupur, Malkangiri, Laxmipur, Nowrangpur, Sunabeda and Umerkote in Koraput districts of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the time by when these are likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS):

(a) to (c). TV coverage in Koraput district is expected to improve consequent upon the operationalisation of the high power transmitter (10KW) installed at Bhawanipatna. Besides, a low power TV transmitter is envisaged to be set up at Malkangiri in Koraput district subject to the availability of resources for the purpose. There is, however, no approved scheme, at present, to upgrade the existing TV transmitters at Sambalpur and Rourkela.

#### **Electrified villages in Madhya Pradesh**

1604. KUMARI VIMLA VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified during the 7th Plan Period and in 1990-91 in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the number of villages which are proposed to be electrified during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) As per available information , 19, 552 villages were electrified during the 7th Plan Period in Madhya Pradesh. The Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board has reported electrification of 2980 villages in the State during 1990-91.

(b) During the current financial year, 1,620 villages are proposed to be electrified in the Madhya Pradesh.

#### **Age of Girls for Marriage**

1605. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: